(a) Whether the Government have made efforts to bring the labourers above the poverty line during 1990-91 and if so, the total number of labourers brought above the line; and

(b) the details of the action taken for the welfare of the labourers in this regard?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTERY OF LABOUR (SHRI PABAN SINGH GHATOWAR): (a) and (b). Annual figures of labourers borough above the poverty line are not maintained. The government is operating a large number of schemes for the uplift of the weaker sections of labour force like the fixing of minimum wages linked to poverty line, implementation of poverty alleviation programmes like Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP), Training of Rural Youth for Self employment (TRYSEM), Development of women and Children in Rural areas (DWCRA), Jawahar Rojgar Yojana and schemas for financial assistance to landless agricultural labour and pension schemes for the old and destitute.

[English]

Nuclear Power Plant in Saharsa, Bihar

2274. SHRI SURYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of nuclear power plants in the country;

(b) whether the cost of power generation is less in such type of plants as compared to the other sources of energy;

(c) if so, whether the Government propose to set up any such nuclear plant in Saharsa district of Bihar; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) Presently eight nuclear reactors are in operation, at four stations (Tarapur, Rajasthan, Kalpakkam and Narora).

(b) Cost if nuclear power generation form these units is comparable of that of coal thermal power plants located away from coal pit-heads.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Due to availabiiity of coal reserves in eastern electricity region of which Bihar is a part, the priority for setting up of nuclear power plants is relactively low.

Major Project in Saharsa District, Bihar

2275. SHRI SURAYA NARAYAN YADAV: Will the Minister of PLANNING PROGRAMME implementation be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propo se to launch any major project in Saharsa district of Northern Bihar;

(b) if so, the funds allocated/proposed for this project; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not undertaking any such project in this backward area?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI H.R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c). No such proposal to launch a major project in Saharsa district of Northern Bihar has been received from the State Government by the Planning Commission.